PADDY CULTIVATION

†*813 [28] **Sri. Eapen Arakkal:** Will the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the extent of land under paddy cultivation in;

1. Travancore area
2. Cochin area.

(*b*) how much paddy has been procured from Kuttanad in 1124 and 1125; what is the total extent of paddy land in Kuttanad and what is the rate of procurement per acre;

(*c*) how can the abnormal disparity in procurement rates in Travancore and Cochin areas be explained; and

(*d*) are there places in Travancore area where the rate of procurement is less than five paras per acre ?

Minister for Education, Labour and Civil Supplies **(Sri. Panampilli Govinda Menon):**

(*a*) The extent of land under paddy cultivation in Travancore area is 5,95,000 acres. In Cochin it is 2,00,000 acres;

(*b*) *i.* In Kuttanad the quantity of paddy procured was 26,06,530 paras in 1124 and 21,64,661 paras in 1125.

ii. The total extent of paddy land in Kuttanad area is 1,70,143 acres.

iii. The quantity procured comes to 15·32 paras per acre in 1124 and 12·72 paras per acre in 1125.

(*c*) Compared with the acreage under cultivation in each division the quantity procured in Travancore is less than that in Cochin. This is due to differences in local conditions.

(*d*) The term 'places' is very wide and no definite answer can be furnished. The question is whether there is any place in Travancore where the rate of procurement is less than five paras per acre. As procurement is on excess basis there will be many cases where there will not be any excess at all to b procured after allowing for the requirements of the agriculturists. Therefore an affirmative answer can be given to this sub division of the question.

IMPORT OF RICE

†*814. [29] **Sri. Eapen Arakkal:** Will the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether any representation has been received to the effect that sufficient quantity of rice and other food grains can be imported into our State if the big merchants who were importing the same in pre-war days are allowed to do so; and

(*b*) have the Government looked into this question now that the scarcity of rice is so acute and threatening ?

Minister for Education, Labour and Civil Supplies **(Sri. Panampilli Govinda Menon):**

(*a*) No.

(*b*) No, because it is only on Government of India's account that rice can be imported from other countries.

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†Answers to questions 28 and 29 laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

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